

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the parent application.

By this amendment: Dependent Claim 10 is canceled and new Claim 19 is substituted therefor. New Claims 20 through 23 are added. Claims 1 through 7 are withdrawn, and Claim 8 is amended to make it depend from new Claim 19. The added portions are underlined and the deleted portions are stricken through.

1. (currently withdrawn) ~~In a luggage case having at least one outer shell, the shell in turn having a generally broad face, this broad face formed of a fabric panel, the improvement comprising an injection molded frame attached to an edge of the fabric panel, and an autogenously formed bond between the frame and the fabric panel.~~
2. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of Claim 1 wherein the shell has a series of walls upstanding from the broad face, the injection molded frame integrally forming the series of upstanding walls.~~
3. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of Claim 2 wherein the upstanding series of walls consist of a back wall, a front wall, and side walls extending between the front wall and the back wall.~~
4. (currently withdrawn) ~~In a luggage case having at least one outer shell, the shell in turn having a generally broad face, this broad face formed of a fabric panel, the improvement comprising an injection molded frame attached to an edge of the fabric panel, the injection molded frame integrally forming a series of upstanding walls consisting of a back wall, a front wall, and side walls extending between the front wall and the back wall, and an autogenously formed bond between the frame and the fabric panel wherein the back wall includes integrally formed hinges for hingedly attaching the shell to the rest of the luggage case.~~
5. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of Claim 2 wherein the front wall includes at least one latching device for selectively holding the shell to the rest of the luggage case.~~
6. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of Claim 1 wherein the panel further includes a layer of textile fabric and a layer of a foam polymer to stiffen the textile fabric layer.~~
7. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of Claim 1 wherein the bond between the frame and fabric panel extends around substantially the entire periphery of the panel.~~
8. (currently amended) In the luggage case of Claim 619 wherein the fabric and the foam layer are laminated to one another to form a laminated panel having a periphery, the periphery of the panel having an edge portion upstanding from the major dimension of the panel, the extreme edge of the peripheral edge portion having a cut edge, the cut edge being hidden by the injection molded frame attached thereto.

9. (previously amended) In a luggage case having at least one outer shell, the shell in turn having a generally broad face, this broad face formed of a fabric panel, the improvement comprising an injection molded frame attached to an edge of the fabric panel, and an autogenously formed bond between the frame and the fabric panel, wherein the autogenously formed bond between the frame and fabric panel extends around substantially the entire periphery of the panel, and wherein the panel further includes a layer of textile fabric and a layer of a foam polymer and has a thickness dimension perpendicular to the major dimension and generally equal to the thickness of the fabric and the foam layer, but the thickness of the extreme edge thereof being substantially less than the thickness dimension.

10. (currently withdrawn) ~~In the luggage case of claim 2 wherein the frame further includes a thick section adjacent the series of wall, the thick section including the autogenous bond.~~

11. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case from a laminated panel having a peripheral edge portion, and made of a foam panel layer and a fabric covering and an injection molded frame, comprising the steps of positioning the peripheral edge portion inside an injection mold for forming the frame, and injecting plastic material into the mold to form an autogenous bond between the plastic material and the edge portion.

12. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in claim 11 wherein the step of positioning includes holding the edge portion against an inside surface of an injection mold for forming the frame, and injecting fluid plastic into the mold while maintaining the peripheral edge portion against the inside surface of the mold.

13. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in Claim 12 wherein the inside surface of the mold is a surface that forms an inside surface of the finished shell.

14. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in Claim 12 including leading the plastic material to a portion of the mold adjacent to the peripheral edge portion before substantially filling the mold with plastic material, whereby the plastic material adjacent the peripheral edge portion helps to maintain the peripheral edge portion against the inside surface of the mold.

15. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in claim 14 further including supplying a mold cavity having a portion thereof sized to create relatively thin web portions of the frame, and a thick portion immediately adjacent to the peripheral edge portion, and introducing the plastic material into the mold cavity at the thick portion, whereby the plastic material preferentially fills the thick portion prior to filling the remainder of the mold cavity.

16. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in claim 15 further including the step of introducing into the thick portion a second fluid along with the plastic material, whereby a hollow section is formed in the thick portion of the completed shell.

17. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in claim 16 wherein the second fluid is a gas.

18. (previously withdrawn) A process of forming a shell of a luggage case as set forth in claim 16 wherein the second fluid is a blowing agent.

19. (new) In a luggage case having at least one outer shell, this shell in turn having a generally broad face, this broad face formed of a fabric panel with edge portions surrounding its periphery, the improvement comprising an injection molded frame attached to and extending beyond the edge portion of the fabric panel, and an autogenously formed bond between the frame and the edge portion of the fabric panel, wherein the frame comprises a series of relatively thin upstanding walls and a relatively thick edge portion adjacent the series of walls, the relatively thick portion including said autogenous bond.

20. (new) In the luggage case of claim 19 wherein the upstanding series of walls consist of a back wall, a front wall, and side walls extending between the front wall and the back wall.

21. (new) In the luggage case of claim 20 wherein the back wall includes integrally formed hinges for hingedly attaching the shell to the rest of the luggage case.

22. (new) In the luggage case of claim 19 wherein the upstanding front wall includes at least one latching device for selectively holding the shell to the rest of the luggage case.

23. (new) In the luggage case of claim 19 wherein the fabric panel includes a layer of textile fabric and a layer of foam polymer to stiffen the textile fabric layer.

Applicants: Van Hoye et al
Int'l Filing Date: 10/09/2001
Preliminary Amendment

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